received in June, 1991. The Committee confirmed tne presence of arsenic pollution beyond permissible limit in some localised patches. The Committee had observed that the deposition of huge amount of arsenic could not be anthropogenic and the source might be geo-physical. The Committee suggested to take the third aquifer of the ground water; Recently, some case of arsenic pollution have been found even in the water drawn from the third aquifer. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission had also sponsored a study by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health *on* the removal of arsenic from ground water. Thetfinal reports of the study is still awaited.

(a) Special assistance will be cor idered by the Central Government on receipt of specific proposals from the State Government.

(d) The assistance would be in the nature of technical guidance and financial asistance under the Sub Missions under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.

(e) In the affected areas, safe alternative sources of supply are to be proivded from sources free from arsenic, It is also necessary to undertake further .research and development to clearly establish the causes of excess arsenic, to demarcate the affected areas and develop the treatment processes. The State Government of West Bengal have constituted another Committee for further in-depth studies for the problems.

Implementation of Chakbandi

£4818. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA.: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea sed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chak-feandi implementation has ben dropped in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therofer;

(c) wheher Government have studied the likely impact of chakbandi abolition on the farmers of Bihar and also on other States of the Union; and

(d) if so, the. details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL. DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the State Government of Bihar.

(c) No such study has been under taken by the Central Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Produce s Marketing Regulations

£4819. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has called for substantial changes in the model law the Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulations prepared by the "Centre" for adoption by the State Governments to protect the interests of farmers;

(b) if so, what are "the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MSNISSKr OP RURAL. DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The ASSOCHAM has suggested following changes; —

(1) The 'definition *at* agricultural produce be made more explicit to

£Previously untared question 3300, transferred 7th August, 1992.

££Previously Unstarred question 3299, transferred from fTEh August, 1992.

include only primary agricultural products processed and made market- able or consumable by farmers. The fruits and vegetables, deoiled cake and extraction, sugar and molasses and planting materials and seeds should be deleted on various grounds such as perishableness, export consi- dersations or other being covered by separate laws such as Sugarcane Act and seeds Act.

(2) The role of the constituents of market committees i.e. farmers, I traders, exporters, 'hamals' and the government vary in importance and j necessity in different types of mar ket committees. The operation and control of the various markets sh ould be assigned accordingly to these constituents.

(3) There should be maximum limit on levy of market fees. If mar ket fees hasi been paid for goods at one mandi, those should not be sub jected to fresh levy at the other mandi.

(c) The Government of India has already set up a High Power Committee to review the present State Market Acts and working of va- rious Agricultural Marketing Bodies and to recommend appropriate measures for streamlining and strengthening of the set up for marketing of Agricultural produce. The Committee is already going into the suggestions made by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

High Powered Committe on Agriculture

$4820 SHRI KRISHNA' KUMAR BIRLA:

SRHI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the High powered Committee on agricultural market- ing has criticised the Union Government's decision to transfer the Central Seator schemes for development of markets in the States;

(b) whether the said committee has recommended to Government to review its decision in the interest of farmers of the country;

(c) if so , Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) (wnether Government propose to review its decision and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL. DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a). and (b)' In their Interim Report, the High Power Committee on Agricultural Marketing has recommended that the decision of Government to transfer the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Markets to the States should be reviewed.

(c) and (d) As the decision to transfer this scheme to the State Sector has been taken by the National Development Council on the basis of a recommendation to that effect made by a Committee of the National Development Council, it is not proposed to review the above decision.

$Previously Unstarred Question 3303, transferred from the 7th August, 1992.

सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम

4821 डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन : मैं श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम के अधीन 90 जिलों में लगभग 615 प्रखंडों की पहचान की है ;

!पूर्वत: अतारांकित प्रश्न 3304, 7 अगस्त, 1992 से स्थानांतरित ।